



Bird Profiles

WATERFOWL

Mottled Duck

Anas fulvigula

Status:	Permanent resident, nests at Grand Bay
Abundance:	Fairly common
When found:	Year round
Habitat:	Salt & freshwater marsh ponds, small bayous
Best locations:	Hawkes' Marsh, Point aux Chenes

Notes: Mottled Ducks build their nests in dense mats of grass surrounding marsh ponds throughout the reserve. Though usually seen in pairs, in winter they may form flocks of up to 30 birds.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Redhead

Aythya americana

Status:	Winter resident
Abundance:	Common
When found:	November–March
Habitat:	Bays & Mississippi Sound, often over seagrass beds
Best locations:	Grand Bay, Jose Bay, Point aux Chenes Bay

Notes: Rafts of up to 700 Redheads are most easily observed in November. Once duck hunting begins, most are found well out in the Gulf.

Redhead in background with a hen Scaup in foreground

Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©



Greater – Photo courtesy of Jeff Rester ©



Lesser – Photo courtesy of Jeff Rester ©

Greater and Lesser Scaup

Aythya marila and A. affinis

- Status: Winter residents
- Abundance: Lesser is common; Greater is fairly common
- When found: November–March
- Habitat: Bays & Mississippi Sound, often over seagrass beds
- Best locations: Grand Bay, Jose Bay, Point aux Chenes Bay

Notes: Lesser Scaup outnumber Greater Scaup in Mississippi, but Greater are more common here on the coast than in the rest of the state. Look for the extensive white in their primary feathers.

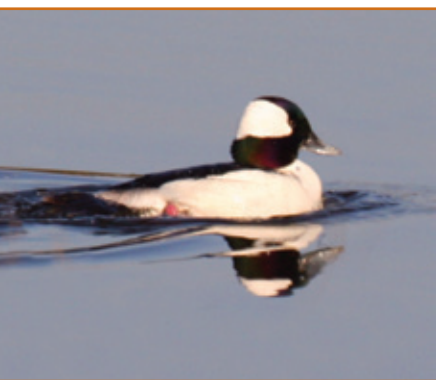


Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola

- Status: Winter resident
- Abundance: Common
- When found: November–March
- Habitat: Bays and larger bayous
- Best locations: Bayou Cumbest, Bangs Lake, Middle Bay

Notes: These small ducks can be seen diving for invertebrates across the Reserve's major waterbodies. They breed in the boreal forest, where they nest in tree cavities made by woodpeckers.



Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Hooded Merganser

Lophodytes cucullatus

- Status: Winter resident, has nested in coastal Mississippi
Abundance: Common
When found: November–March
Habitat: Bayous and marsh ponds
Best locations: Bayou Heron, Bangs Lake, Bayou Cumbest

Notes: Rafts of over 50 Hooded Mergansers are not unusual on Bangs Lake. The majority of the Hooded Mergansers here are hens.

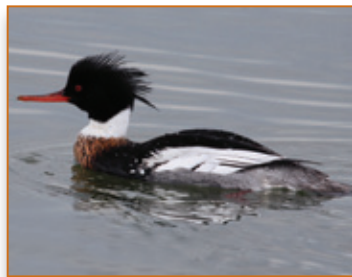
Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

- Status: Winter resident
Abundance: Common
When found: November–April
Habitat: Bays and the mouths of larger bayous
Best locations: Bangs Lake, Bangs Island, Jose Bay

Notes: Flotillas of these large fish-eating ducks may be seen dipping their heads underwater to spot fish before they dive in unison to round up their prey.

Photos courtesy of Olivia Graves ©



Male above, Female below

